

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on November 8, 2005. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate recitations from original claims 3 and 7, and also in accordance with such disclosure as that in lines 5-21 on page 8 of the specification. Claim 2 is amended based upon disclosure in the specification, from line 26 on page 12 through line 1 on page 13. Claim 7 is cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending in the application.

Objection was raised to the language of claim 2. The objection is believed to be obviated by the present Amendment.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112 as failing to define the invention properly. The Examiner argued that it was not clear whether claim 1 is directed to a sheet as such or to a combination of a sheet and a display panel. The claim is amended to make it clear that it refers to a sheet as such. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 and 8-13 in their present form satisfy the requirements of the statute.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,254,388 (Cobb). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cobb fails to teach or suggest the specific soft resin sheet comprising a transparent section and a dark section as defined in the present invention. It goes without saying that Cobb fails to teach or suggest the specific relationship between the transparent section and the dark section that characterize the present invention and that make the presently claimed sheet especially suitable for use in a plasma display panel.

Although Cobb discloses a louvered film having a clear region and a dark region (the region of the triple layer structure comprising one central region and two outer regions), Cobb fails to disclose either the relationship between the periodic width of the dark region and the thickness of the sheet nor the relationship between the width of the clear region and the width of

the dark region. In the Example of Cobb, the ratio [P/T] of the period width P of the dark region relative to the thickness T of the sheet is $(0.025 + 0.175)/0.375 = 1/1.875$, and the ratio $[W_1/W_2]$ of the width W_1 of the clear region relative to the width W_2 of the dark region is $0.175/(0.011 + 0.007 \times 2) = 7/1$. That is, both of the ratios [P/T] and [W₁/W₂] have low values in Cobb. The ratio [P/T] herein is 1/1 to 1/1.8, so that the lowest value encompassed by the present claims is 0.56, while the Cobb value is only 0.53. The ratio [W₁/W₂] herein is 30/1 to 10/1, so that the lowest value encompassed by the present claims is 10/1, while the Cobb value is only 7/1. Nothing in the Cobb disclosure would motivate persons of ordinary skill in the art to increase both of these ratios in a resin sheet.

Moreover, although Cobb refers to the screen of a CRT or other display, the Cobb disclosure does not relate plasma display panels. The technology of plasma display panels having flat surfaces and large sizes is significantly different in performance and behavior characteristics from that of CRT displays, which have curved surfaces and small sizes. Therefore, unlike in the case of CRT displays, exact control of the ratios [P/T] and [W₁/W₂] is required in plasma display panel technology.

Furthermore, since the production of large plasma display panels is significantly more difficult than is that of small CRT display panels, the selection of the materials to constitute the sheet is more important in plasma displays. Cobb fails to teach or suggest the specific soft resins that constitute the sheets of the present invention.

In summary, Cobb fails to disclose soft resin sheets made from the resins recited in claim 1 and having the relatively high [P/T] and [W₁/W₂] ratios recited in claim 1. Thus the Cobb disclosure fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the presently claimed resin sheets which are “suitable for being disposed in front of a plasma display panel and transmitting a rectilinear light”.

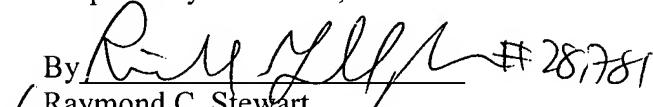
UNEXPECTED PROPERTIES. The Cobb disclosure does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and accordingly no consideration of unexpected properties is necessary. Nevertheless, Applicant points out that the present invention provides unexpected advantages. That is, since the film of Cobb comprises a cellulose acetate butyrate and has a triple layer dark region, the Cobb film is extremely difficult to handle. Furthermore, since the Cobb film has low

[P/T] and [W₁/W₂] ratios, the Cobb film does not provide high contrast image display in a daylight environment. In contrast, since the sheet of the present invention has the recited specific relationship between the transparent section and the dark section, the sheet of this invention ensures high contrast image display without decreasing luminance of a plasma display even in a daylight environment. Moreover, the present sheet inhibits reflection of an outside light (e.g., a lamp or sunlight) by shielding the outside light. Further, since the sheet of this invention comprises the specified soft resins and has a simple structure, the present sheet can be produced conveniently even in a large size. These advantages of the present invention are not expected or predictable from the Cobb disclosure.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Richard Gallagher, Registration No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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